

The Southeast News

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 11

SEPTEMBER 1964

Share Our Substance Offerings Are Urged

Each year Church World Service must be prepared to meet approximately fifteen major disasters in various parts of the world. Experience has taught those who administer relief and rehabilitation not only how many disasters to expect, but even the areas in which they are most likely to occur.

Preparations are made in advance for sure-to-come hurricanes, earthquakes, drought, floods, and fires.

Sharp watch is kept on the world political scene to provide warnings of man-made catastrophes that uproot thousands of people who join the millions of refugees trodding homeless and helpless the roads of India, Pakistan, Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, and elsewhere.

A careful day-by-day check is kept on politically explosive areas where social conflicts are in the initial phase or in full swing. Distribution of food, medicines, and shelter are planned before the upheaval takes place.

Preparations for disasters require stock piling of galvanized or plastic pipe for emergency water supplies, anti-contamination tablets, drugs, bulk foods, blankets, clothing, tractors or outboard motors to rescue marooned villagers in India or other stricken areas. These supplies must be ready for use a few hours after disaster strikes. There are nine Church World Service Centers in the United States where materials are stored for immediate use.

The United Church of Christ, along with twenty-eight other major Christian denominations, helps to make this efficient relief and rehabilitation program possible. Every church is asked to contribute to this life and soul-saving program.

The Share Our Substance (SOS) appeal in early October, or at Thanksgiving time, gives you an opportunity to help. The churches are urged to receive SOS offerings this fall.

Ministers And Delegates Will Attend The Fall Association And Conference Meetings

The annual fall meetings of the Associations and Conferences of the Southeast Convention will be held during the period October 3 through October 17.

The churches of the convention are urged to be represented at their respective associations and conferences by their elected delegates. Visitors from the churches are always welcome. All ministers of the convention should plan to attend.

As The Southeast News goes to press definite information concerning the mission speaker for the meetings is not available. In the event a speaker from the mission field is not secured in time for the meetings both Rev. Carlton C. Johnson, secretary for the Southern Region Office of the Stewardship Council, and Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr. will be available on the programs to present Our Christian World Mission.

At the present time it is known that the Rev. Carlton N. Weber, urban church field secretary for the Division of Church Extension of the Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church of Christ will speak at the joint meeting of the Kentucky-Tennessee and Tennessee-Kentucky Conferences.

Mr. Weber is a graduate of Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio, and Eden Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. He is married to the former Carol G. Lindner of Buffalo, New York. They have three children — Carlton 15, Margaret 13, and David 11.

Mr. Weber, who formerly was a parish minister, has been in his present position for seven years.

According to the information now available in the convention office the following is the schedule of the time and place for each meeting.

SOUTH ALABAMA - N. W. FLORIDA

The South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association will meet at the First Congregational Christian Church, Andalusia, Ala., on Saturday and Sunday,



Oct. 3 and 4. Registration begins at 2 p. m. Saturday. Rev. E. H. Henby is the moderator.

C. ALABAMA

The Central Alabama Association will meet at the East Tallassee, Ala., Congregational Christian Church on Monday, Oct. 5. Registration will begin at 3 p. m. and the call to order is at 3:30. Rev. Andrew Nelson is the moderator.

NORTH ALABAMA

The North Alabama Association will meet at the Garden City Congregational Christian Church on Tuesday, October 6. Registration will be at 9 a. m. and the meeting will begin at 9:30. Rev. Homer Barnes is the moderator.

KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference will meet on Saturday and Sunday, October 10-11, at the Oak Ridge Community Church, Oak Ridge, Tenn. The sessions will begin at 1 p. m. Mr. G. Everett Farmer is the moderator.

EAST ALABAMA

The East Alabama Association will meet on Wednesday, October 14, at the Elder Church, Dadeville, Alabama. The meeting will begin at 10 a. m. CST.

The association will meet on Thursday, October 15, at the Lanett Congregational Christian Church at 10 a. m. EST.

Rev. George W. Stowe is the moderator.

GEORGIA - SOUTH CAROLINA

The Georgia-South Carolina Conference will meet on Friday and Saturday, October 16-17, at the Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, Georgia. Registration is at 1 p. m. and the call to order at 2 p. m. Rev. Frederick A. Meyer is the moderator.

United Church Offers Young People Many Fields Of Service

(Continued from Last Month)

"The President's war on poverty brings into sharper focus the ministry to persons of special need," the Rev. Dr. Lee W. Rockwell, general secretary of the Division of Health and Welfare Services, said. "As the needs of people continue to grow," he added, "the United Church must increase its witness in this area if it is to remain truthful to its calling."

Seventy-two agencies directly affiliated with the United Church provide services to the aged, facilities for the mentally retarded, general and specialized hospitals, city missions and residential homes for children and unwed mothers.

In 1963, the agencies served over 437,000 persons, including out-patients.

Forty of the 72 agencies offer retirement housing, sheltered care and skilled nursing service to the aged. There are thirteen residence homes for emotionally maladjusted children, five missions (or settlement houses) in deteriorating urban areas, twelve general and specialized hospitals, two residences for the mentally retarded, and one home for unwed mothers.

Dozens of new facilities are in the planning stages, with emphasis on services to the aging.

Openings now exist for twenty-five to thirty academically qualified social workers (preferably with the M. S. A. degree) and for a lesser number of hospital administrators (preferably with a masters degree in hospital administration).

There are positions for "cottage parents" in residence homes for children, for floor personnel in facilities for the elderly and for attendants in residences for the mentally retarded.

Approximately 9,000 persons are employed by the 72 agencies. This figure includes: general physicians, psychiatrists, obstetricians, pediatricians, cardiologists, eye specialists, surgeons, physical therapists, medical researchers, x-ray technicians, laboratory technicians, dieticians, psychologists, social case workers, social group workers,

nurses and orderlies.

At the national level, the United Church's division of publications, the Stewardship Council and the Office of Communications have a continual need for editors, writers, photographers, artists, design experts, film and radio and television specialists.

Lawyers and financial experts are needed to study requests for aid from churches and to advise on proposals for new buildings. Specialists are also required to manage pension funds for lay workers and ministers and relief funds. Security analysts are needed to handle investment of funds held by the church, its boards and agencies.

The United Church's Board for World Ministries has openings for 207 persons in 23 countries this year, more than ever before. Eighty-five to ninety per cent of the openings are for laymen.

The Board maintains a staff of more than 500 missionaries, teachers, doctors, nurses, social service workers and evangelists. They are working with some 16,000 nationals in 1,200 schools and colleges, 80 hospitals and clinics, 35 social service centers and 3000 churches in 27 countries.

The Board's service division is a highly mobile organization that responds on short notice to natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes. The division provides surplus foods, clothing and medicines, refugee relief and resettlement and distribution and education work related to the shipping of farm animals to areas of need.

The importance of the Board's work is dramatized by the fact that one-third of the world's population and 39 votes in the General Assembly of the United Nations belong to countries that have come into being since World War II.

These new nations need education and training to help them help themselves and medical assistance. The situation is particularly crucial at the secondary school level where there may be ten applicants for each available seat.

Today's missionary must be well-informed and highly competent in a specialized field. He should have a strong physical constitution and the ability to cope with greater stresses and strains than would have occurred at home. Board officials emphasize the importance of a "lack of over-concern about

one's self" and the necessity for an "out-going" personality.

The primary purpose of the missionary is to bring people together into understanding, according to Dr. John A. Reuling, general secretary of the Board's Division of Mission. "Human beings are the most frustrating element as well as the largest challenge," he said. "In the areas of need the wall of human conservatism is an apparently impenetrable barrier. The challenge is that it can be penetrated."

The greatest need for personnel at present is in Africa which has 71 openings; the Near East has 45 openings; the Far East, 44; Southeast Asia, 35; Latin America, 10; and Europe, 2.

All personnel are required to be: (1) professionally trained; (2) physically sound; (3) an active member of a Protestant church; (4) flexible (that is, open and responsive to new values in another cultural context); and (5) at least 21 years of age.

Teachers are needed for the following subjects: agriculture, art, biology, business subjects, chemistry, elementary education, English, history and geography, home economics, Latin, linguistics, mathematics, music, physical education, physics, psychology, general science, sociology, theology, vocational training, and school administrators.

There are positions open in religious work for ministers, Christian education workers, a theological school teacher and a student Christian movement worker.

The following persons with medical skills are needed: doctors, nurses, a dentist, a physiotherapist, an orthopedist, a public health worker, a laboratory technician, a matron of nurses, and a hospital matron.

There are also openings for agriculturists, a building construction and maintenance specialist, a business manager, house parents, a librarian, a publications specialist, a water geologist, an animal husbandry specialist, a radio program director, and Church World Service representatives.

EXTEND YOUR HORIZONS
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SOUTHEAST NEWS

Andalusia First Church Reports Many Activities

With vacations over and school bells ringing maybe our church's attendance will be better. Vacations are wonderful and I am sure many of us attended some church while we were away from ours. It makes us realize more than ever there are fine Christian people all over the world who are serving the Living God.

We were delighted to have Rev. L. Floyd Carmack from Georgia to bring us inspiring sermons during our revival in June. Rev. Carmack has known Rev. and Mrs. Culpepper from boyhood. Our prayers go up to God for Floyd and may God bless him and his family.

On August 15th the Women's Fellowship Rally was held at Blackwood Church at Headland, Ala. Rev. Culpepper carried Mrs. Florine Wallace, Mrs. Amy Kelly, Mrs. Cora Peevy, Mrs. Alma Lanton, and Mrs. Lula Trawick. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the work of lay men and women in our churches and the material for programs in the packets for the coming year.

Mrs. Marvin Brand presided at the meeting and she had it well planned. At noon the ladies of the church served a delicious meal. The day was an enjoyable one of fellowship and work.

Our Daily Vacation Bible School was held from August 17th to 21st, with three classes and an average attendance of 25 every day. Graduation was held on Friday night. The ladies of the church reported a good Bible School and the children showed interest and enjoyed each session.

As everybody has birthdays, even though some of us after 50 would rather not remember them, they come around just the same. Mrs. Culpepper's birthday was August 20th, so her Sunday School class gave her a surprise party. We met at her house carrying refreshments and gifts. We enjoyed the social hour and refreshments.

With the association just a month away, the men of the church are really cleaning the floors of the church.

Please plan to attend the association! Let's have each church represented and Per Capita Dues paid.

See you at the association.

Bernice Carter, Reporter

News Notes Sent By Blackwoods Church

Mrs. Joseph H. Brown sponsors the Pilgrim Fellowship group of teenagers. On Wednesday evenings they meet for worship, discussion, and fellowship. For five weeks on Monday evenings the group has been learning "Bowling." The August party was a "Tacky Party", which was unusually successful as to numbers, costumes, and fun. Roger Faison attended the Southeast Convention Youth Camp at Pine Mountain, Ga., July 26-August 1.

Other age groups meeting on Wednesday evenings for Bible Study, and their leaders are:

Adults: Rev. Jos. Brown, Pastor

Juniors: Miss Betty Pettis

Primaries: Miss Judy Faison

Nursery: Mrs. Pera Kennedy

The Sunday School is the most important organization of the church, with nearly all church members, and others, participating in the eight classes under the able leadership of Superintendent Merwin O. Johnson.

The Women's Fellowship is active in its program of study, service, and fellowship.

The Community Building has received a new outside coat of paint recently. The necessary painting at the parsonage has also been finished.

LaGrange 6-Plus Club Holds Annual Outing

Members of the LaGrange Sixty-Plus Club toured Christus Gardens in Gatlinburg, Tenn., recently during their annual outing, which took them by bus through the Great Smoky Mountains. On their visit to Gatlinburg's famed "Wonderland of Bible Stories" they viewed a series of inspiring scenes from the life of Christ, colorfully depicted through life-like figures and realistic settings, and heard a narrative description of just what was occurring in each scene. Mrs. Hollis Tidwell, advisor, was in charge of the group on the trip. Others making the tour were: Hollis Tidwell, Rev. Floyd Carmack, Mrs. Harold Cobb, Mrs. Rose Abbott, Mrs. Doris Thornberry, Mrs. Ethel Richardson, Mrs. Ernest Lipham, Mrs. Ethel Miles, Mrs. Mattie Richardson, Mrs. Mary Shivers, Mrs. J. H. Stodgill, Mrs. Sarah Linder, Mrs. Bertha Depourcy, Mr. H. D. Ward (driver).

A daughter, Lisa DeAnne, was born

S. Ala.-N. W. Fla. Women's Fellowship Holds Workshop

The first workshop of the Women's Fellowship of South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association was held at Blackwood Church on Saturday, Aug. 15.

Mrs. Marvin Brand, Association president, led the ten o'clock opening devotional period, which set the spirit for the day. Included in the words of welcome was a statement of the purpose of the workshop by Miss Dora C. Brackin, Blackwood president. "Program Opportunities for Adults", lay suggested program material, was introduced by Mrs. Arthur Wallace, association education chairman.

The high point of the day came when all persons were involved in discussion of "The Role of the Laity", following the excellent introduction to chapter one of "Salty Christmas" by the Association Spiritual Life Chairman Mrs. Leonard Faison. During the day, two other similar discussion periods of "buzz" groups of 4 persons each were profitably used.

It was heartening to have some pastors attend and participate in the workshop: namely, Rev. Joseph Brown, Rev. Otto Culpepper, and Rev. N. A. Long.

In the afternoon, Mrs. Lula Trawick, Association Witness Chairman, gave a report of the "Retreat" and reported state recommendations. Miss Dora C. Brackin, assisted by others, demonstrated methods of presenting "A Mosquito on the Flag" and Miss Helen Huntington Smith's article on the laity. After business and evaluations, conducted by Mrs. Brand, an interesting, valuable, and enjoyable fellowship ended.

July 31st to Mr. and Mrs. Traylor McDonald, the former Melissa Kelley. Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Watt Kelley and paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. A. T. McDonald.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. DeLoach recently won a trip to New York and the World's Fair from Callaway Mills 25-Year Club.

Mr. and Mrs. John Laubenthal also spent ten days in New York and saw the World's Fair while there.

Miss Judy Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Handley Brown, recent graduate of LaGrange College, leaves for Atlanta, Ga., to teach in the Oak Grove School in DeKalb County.

Mrs. Ernest Lipham
Church Reporter

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STAFF

Rev. Jas. H. Lightbourne, Jr. Editor

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Superintendent's Corner

Summer is over. The schools are in full session. The normal routines of work that were interrupted by the recreational activities of the summer months now command their regular attention. Most people are having to settle back into the discipline of their usual duties.

With the coming of the fall most of the churches enter a period of renewed activity. This is a time when it can be determined whether the enthusiasm engendered by the revival services of the summer will bear fruit in the basic program and activities of the church or whether the revival was another aspect of summer entertainment held under religious auspices. Were the church members really "revived"? Have new converts been won to Christ?

Soon the annual fall association and conference meetings will be held. Now is a good time for the churches to pay their per capita dues. It is also a good time to determine how the church is doing in its support of Our Christian World Mission.

As has been stated so many times, the mission of our fellowship of churches in this country and around the world as well as the Program of Progress of the Southeast Convention depend upon our faithful support of OCWM.

If every church in the convention would meet the OCWM goal suggested to it for the year, the aid received from the Board for Homeland Ministries no longer would be needed.

I hope that every church will be represented and every minister in attendance at the fall meetings. I also hope that the records there reported will testify to real vitality in the life of our churches.

FREEDOM IN PERPETUITY — by Dr. Ben M. Herbster

(Reprinted from United Church Herald. Dr. Herbster is President of The United Church of Christ)

In spite of the fact that my hair used to be red and I have a good supply of the fineness which is supposed to be a concomitant, I believe I have developed adequate patience — particularly with those honest doubters who ask intelligent and honest questions. How are people to find out unless they question and unless someone answers?

So, in almost three years at my present post I have answered the query, "What will happen to our property, our freedom, our liberty and our autonomy if we join the United Church?", almost a thousand times. The answer, of course, is: "Nothing."

The members of one church, filled with misinformation, decided to leave the United Church and asked me to return their property to them. I answered, "I cannot give back what neither I nor the United Church ever possessed. It was your property when you were Congregationalists, it still belonged to you when you were a part of the United Church and when you withdraw it will still be yours." How much plainer than that can it be expressed?

Article IV, Paragraph 21 of the United Church Constitution and By-Laws says:

The autonomy of the local church is inherent and modifiable only by its own action. Nothing in this Constitution and the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ shall destroy or limit the right of each local church to continue to operate in the way customary to it; nor shall be construed as giving to the General Synod, or to any Conference or Association now, or at any future time, the power to abridge or impair the autonomy of any local church in the management of its own affairs, which affairs include, but are not limited to, the right to retain or adopt its own methods of organization, worship and education; to retain or secure its own charter and name; to adopt its own Constitution and By-Laws; to formulate its own covenants and confessions of faith; to admit members in its own way and to provide for their discipline or dismissal; to call or dismiss its pastor or pastors by such procedure as it shall determine; to acquire, own, manage and dispose of property and funds; to control its own benevo-

lences; and to withdraw by its own decision from the United Church of Christ at any time without forfeiture of ownership or control of any real or personal property owned by it.

We who have some responsibility to lead the United Church try to be honest. We try to keep our promises. Honest people should not have to swear on a stack of Bibles that promises made and obligations honestly and seriously undertaken mean just what they say.

We have been operating under the Constitution and By-Laws for three years. Nobody has been deprived of any freedom or property; nobody has been gagged. The record is plain. Judge Donald Webber, our past moderator, once said: "Neither Ben Herbster nor I have been to any churches with our pickup truck to haul away the bricks of the buildings. I am too busy and Herbster is too honest." However you express it, every official has scrupulously observed every promise.

But now I run into a new twist. And I have come closer to the end of my patience. Having had no breach of local autonomy to point to in three years, one would think that our doubting friends would be satisfied and happy to discover that they were wrong. But now some of them come up with the argument: "They may be honest now, but wait 20 years. Then you will see!"

Have these people so little faith in their children as to believe that their children will allow any of the dire things they predict to come to pass? Don't they believe their children and ours will be as intelligent, vigilant and honest as their fathers?

Have they no faith in the "faith" that free church government can be used of God in every generation for doing his will? Or do they believe that they themselves are the last bulwarks of God's purpose? Once when a man got to thinking like that God reminded him: "I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal" (KJV).

When the Constitution says, "now or at any future time," what does that mean except that the autonomy and freedom of the local church is guaranteed in perpetuity? I agree to this and I propose to keep that promise. Can anyone ask for more?

The Church Builders Club Of The Southeast Convention



Huntsville Church Is Current Project Of Club

The United Church of Huntsville, Alabama, is the current project of The Church Builders Club of the Southeast Convention.

Organized in 1960, the church had its origins in a small but interested group of people who first met with Rev. Guy L. Colbert, pastor-at-large of the North Alabama Association. Interest and support for the group also came from the St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, Cullman, Ala.

The South Indiana Synod and the Board of National Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church joined with the Southeast Convention and Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches in helping the small group start a United Church congregation in Huntsville.

Ministerial leadership on an interim basis was given by Rev. Claude W. Warren, a retired minister who was tremendously interested in the project.

In January of 1961 the Rev. and Mrs. W. Raymond Berry went to Huntsville and he became the first full-time resident pastor. The church has purchased a parsonage in a residential development not far from the permanent site of the church. Mr. and Mrs. Berry and their two young children make their home there.

After holding services in a variety of places during their search for a strategic site, the group eventually was able to purchase land on the growing

south side of the city. The purchase included a farmhouse that has been renovated at minimum expense for use as the temporary church building. The dwelling, pictured above, is used for the church school and regular services.

The church continues to receive substantial financial aid from the Southeast Convention and the Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Church.

The church started with 15 members. It has grown to 65 members and future growth is anticipated now that the church is located at its permanent site. When the membership is sufficiently strong to finance construction the first unit of its building program will be started.

The Church Builders Club

The United Church of Huntsville, Ala., was designated the current project of the Southeast Convention Church Builders Club by the membership at the 1964 annual meeting of the club.

The Board of Trustees of the club has met and taken action declaring Sunday, October 25, 1964, Church Builders Club Sunday. Every church is urged to seek members in the Church Builders Club during the month of October with special emphasis on Sunday, October 25.

The Board of Trustees also took action to challenge each church to seek to reach a goal of 20% of its membership enrolled in the club.

The purpose of the club "is to bind together followers of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sharing the task of building His church within the fellowship of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches."

The plan of the club is simple. "Membership in this club is open to all who wish to promote the building of new churches and are willing to pledge themselves to contribute \$5.00 or more for each new church project approved by the governing body or membership of the club. The maximum number of projects to be approved for one calendar year shall be two (2)." Organizations in the churches as well as individuals can join.

Each church should send its list of Church Builders Club members along with a check to cover the dues to the Southeast Convention office. Checks should be to the Church Builders Club.

Application for Membership

In

The Church Builders Club of the Southeast Convention

Name _____

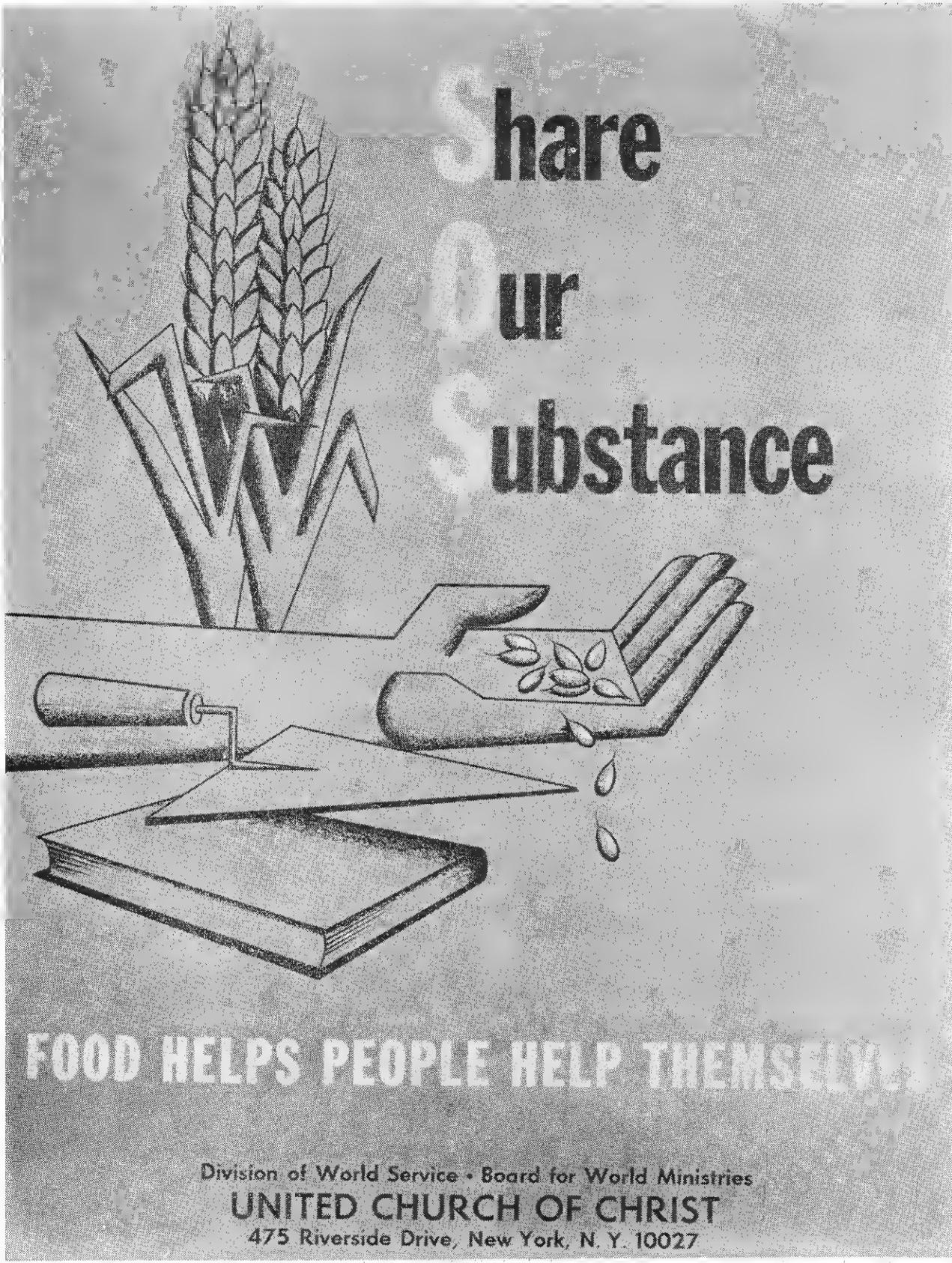
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